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In the Heart of Virginia's Dark Tobacco Belt

Appomattox, Virginia

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STALLED HIGHWAY PROGRAM

One of the disappointing notes from Washington is the announcement that the federal super-highway program is not going to be completed on the date originally anticipated.

It will be remembered that the long-range federal highway program was to have been in being by 1972. Many thought this was a distant target date, since it allowed about fifteen years, or more, from the time the program was decided upon. And it is agreed, among all the experts, that the United States is in critical need of a modern and improved highway network.

Now, facing the international crisis this country is currently confronted with, defense and security needs, and especially those in civilian defense, indicate that a federal highway network, such as that envisioned under the super-highway program, might be needed well before 1972.

But Congress is being told that it will now be 1980 before the grand program of modern, through highways will be completed. This is true, it is said by the Federal Highway Administrator, because Congress, in a 1956 law, required that the program be paid for as it was constructed, rather than along the line of congressional authorizations. (The states also pay a share of the construction costs).

This is a surprise to some Congressmen and a disappointment to defense officials and many citizens. In our opinion, the program should be expedited, not stretched out. It is now a matter of vital urgency, and considering the threat of nuclear attack, which may kill tens of millions and send scores of millions fleeing along the highways, Congress has no choice than to take action, at this session, to see to it that bottlenecks and slowdowns are not allowed to postpone completion of the highway program beyond 1972. Moreover, if the completion date could be moved nearer, it would be a prudent step.

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THE SOUTH AND FILIBUSTER

A survey of Senators from Dixie shows that few of the South's Senators are physically capable of a really strenuous filibuster. This may be the reason why Southerners were not too eager to filibuster in 1957, when a Civil Rights bill passed the Senate.

The significance of this situation cannot be over-estimated. A strong filibuster, backed by the aggressive and determined resolution of a dozen Senators — which Dixie could formerly count upon—would be first difficult to break. Of course, we have always said that filibusters could be broken and the rules of the Senate back us in this contention. The reason more filibusters are not broken is that a constitutional two-thirds majority of the Senate does not wish to break them. However, in the 1957 civil rights crisis, it will be recalled that the issue was brought to a head when the Senate was already some thirty days past the desired adjournment date. If there was a perfect time for a filibuster, as far as the Senate calendar was concerned, this was it. Yet the Southerners in the upper chamber did not filibuster. A successful filibuster calls for tremendous physical effort when it is staged by a small group of men. The South must concern itself with keeping a solid core of physically robust men in the Senate.

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FEBRUARY

The name "February" comes from the Latin verb, "Februare," which means to purify. The Romans formerly held a festival at which a goat was sacrificed, after which the priests struck the hands of women with a strip of the skin of a goat, which was supposed to insure fertility and a safe delivery.

In United States history February is notable as a month of birthday anniversaries. The foremost birthday anniversary of the month is that of George Washington, the founder of the country, whose reputation has grown by leaps and bounds in recent years. It is also the month in which the birthday anniversary of Abraham Lincoln falls.

Other birthdays of interest include those of Charles Dickens, who was born February 7, 1812 at Landport, England. The anniversary of the chartering of the Boy Scouts of America falls on February 8. The chartering took place February 8, 1910.

The birthday anniversary of William Henry Harrison, the ninth President of the United States, comes on February 9. Harrison was born in Charles City County, Va., February 9, 1773.

St. Valentine's Day falls on February 14. Jefferson Davis was inaugurated as President of the Confederacy on February 18, 1861. The Washington Monument was dedicated on February 21, 1885.

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A MAN IN THE HOUSE?

A distinguished member of the female sex recently sounded off on the question of juvenile delinquency, the lack of order and discipline in American families and the general deterioration of a strong family spirit among many of us. It was an eye-opeing discourse.

The basis for most of the trouble, according to this analyst, must be placed upon the shoulders of the father. With this appraisal we are wonderful in agreement. American men, husbands and fathers, probably need to give thought to this problem.

There seems to be very little fatherly authority in the average American home. It is asking too much of a mother to keep house, raise the children, make and mend clothes and keep up with social obligations, as well as often join in the breadwinning, and also wield a police club around the house. That is where a benevolent, wise and firm father is supposed to get into the act.

Family life in the United States is at the end of the swing of the pendulum, so to speak, and has swung constantly in one direction ever since we began to pride ourselves as having granted women equal rights. However, having granted the women equal rights does not mean that the father of the home should abdicate all his responsibilities and turn all of the obligations and responsibilities of raising a family to the mother.

There is nothing wrong with many youngsters today (and we do not believe the younger generation is going to the dogs) which the firm hand of the man in the house would not correct. Among other things, we would like to see more fathers take a little more time with their families, exert a little leadership, and enforce a little discipline as far as the family chores, responsibilities, behavior, tradition and customs are concerned.

Washington Notes

REVISED U. S. LAWS

William W. Barron, who helped revise United States judicial and criminal codes enacted by Congress in June, 1948, died in his room at the University Club in Washington. He was 71 years old and had recently been in a hospital for a heart ailment.

ISRAEL TO PRESS GAINS

Abba Eban, Israel's Ambassador to the United States, has said that Israel would not permit regional and world tensions to "paralyze her into inertia." Mr. Eban, Israel's chief spokesman at the United Nations, declared that Israel was determined, despite these tensions, to consolidate its economic framework, integrate the record influx of immigrants and secure its position as a democratic state in the Middle East.

DEFENSE FUND BACKED

President Eisenhower's request for authority to spend more than half a billion dollars on emergency defense needs this year won quick preliminary approval in the House Armed Services Committee.

PRESIDENT BACKS DULLES

John Foster Dulles, Secretary of State, got a resounding vote of confidence from President Eisenhower recently.

"The last person that I would want to see resign is Mr. Dulles," the President told his news conference.

This was the President's answer to suggestions by public figures and publications at home and abroad that the Secretary of State was impairing the President's policy.

PENTAGON REJECTS BID

Representative Quention Brooks, Democrat, of Louisiana, has announced the Defense Department's rejection of a request by the House Armed Services Committee to delay temporarily the involuntary separation of reserve officers. He said the department had advised him it "would not look with favor on giving so much as a temporary delay" to the program of releasing reserve officers from the armed forces.

FARM JOBS DECLINE

The Agriculture Department says farm employment continued to drop in 1957. It averaged merely 3 per cent below 1956 and 26 per cent below the average of the previous ten years.

The 1957 average was 7,649,000 family and hired workers. Farm employment has declined for ten years in a row, reflecting largely increased use of machinery and other labor-saving devices.

BOMARC TRAINING SET

The Air Force has announced the setting up of its first training unit for Bomarc pilotless interceptor missiles at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

The Bomarc is capable of knocking down attacking bombers at distances of 250 miles from its launching site. It travels at a speed of 1,500 miles an hour.

The Florida unit will be designated the 475lst Air Defense Missile Wing. Its job will be to "develop and conduct a training program for Bomarc missiles units."

TWO NEW TORPEDOES

The Navy has announced that two new lightweight torpedoes — designed to seek out their targets by following sounds — have been delivered to the Fleet.

Torpedoes are known as the Mark 32 and the Mark 43. They are the first of a new series developed by the Navy in its stepped up concentration on anti-submarine warfare.

KNOW THE WEATHER

By E. H. Sims

Why is it that, in most areas of the country, winter brings with it so many long, rainy spells?

Winter produces more rainy spells of several days' duration than summer for several reasons. One of the main reasons is that winter's colder earth and overpresent cold air creates more of the cloud-forming or cooling action that makes for cloud and rain.

Warm air moving into cold winter air (a warm front) can set up a rainy area for hundreds of miles. Since a warm front moves forward more slowly than a cold front, this mass of cloud and rain takes several days to pass overhead.

Occasionally a warm front or an occluded front will become stationary over an area, and in winter this usually means several days of bad, rainy weather. These frontal systems are of long duration but produce little lightning and thunder.

HEART FUND CAMPAIGN

The Heart Fund Campaign, sponsored by the Virginia Heart Association and councils, will be launched Saturday, February 1, when campaign workers from throughout the state assemble at Hotel Berlin, Old Point Comfort, at 2 P. M., for the kick-off luncheon.

Subscription rate: $2.00 a year payable in advance.

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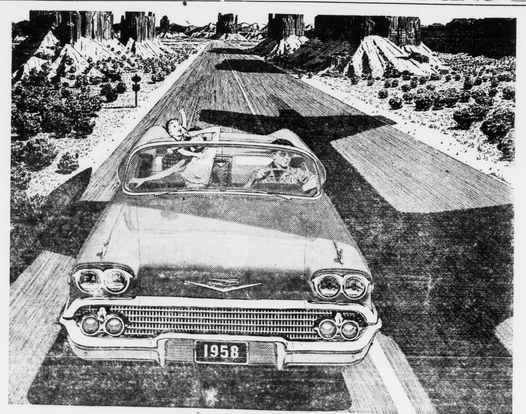

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FORWARD FROM FIFTY

Stonewall

Stonewall, Jan. 27.- Well, we certainly had a wonderful snow last Sunday. It looked like Christmas had come again. But, my, it really left us wet and muddy.

Rev. Aaron Smith preached a wonderful sermon at Bethel Church Sunday morning. It was his last sermon here, before he leaves for Texas to preach for several weeks. We wish for him a nice trip there and safe return to his field here the first of February. He will be greatly missed by his many friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Burnette spent last week-end with Mr. and Mrs. Kemp Nixon and baby son, in Lynchburg, N. C.

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Kent, of Richmond spent the week-end with his mother, Mrs. P. B. Stratton, and Mrs. Edna Adcock.

Mr. and Mrs. Irby Wheeler visited Mrs. Lyle Caldwell, who continues very ill in Lynchburg, last Saturday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Cantrell Smith and boy and Linda, and Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Showalters visited Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Carson over the week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. Tilden Lee and family visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wash Wheeler at Rustburg today.

Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Collins, of Lynchburg visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Caldwell over the week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Beard and Lawrence were dinner guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Chick on Sunday.

Miss Carson Crawley, of Appomattox spent the week-end with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Stratton.

GAME COMMISSION TO BUY GATHRIGHT PROPERTY

The T. M. Gathright property, consisting of approximately 19,000 acres in Bath and Alleghany Counties will change ownership as soon as an abstract of the property is completed and a deed approved by the Attorney General, according to L. T. Quinn, Executive Director of the Game Commission.

This valuable property is being purchased by the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, and according to Quinn, Chairman Beverley W. Strau, Jr., signed the sales contract on January 18. Upon approval by the Attorney General, the Commission will begin immediate development of the tract as a public shooting and fishing area.

The Game Commission will pay $350,000 for this tract of land which is $68,000 less than the appraised value. This property will be purchased with P-R funds and will actually cost the commission only $87,500, or approximately $4.60 an acre.

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—AGENT—

Pittman Robertson funds are those collected and administered by the federal government and remit from an excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition. Allocation of these funds to the various states is determined by formulas based on land area and sales.

DATES SET FOR 4-H JUDGING CONTESTS

Dates have been set for the 1958 series of 4-H district judging contests in Virginia. Winners will compete for state honors at the State 4-H Short Course at VPI in June.

Boys and girls from northern Virginia district will compete in: egg grading and poultry judging, April 12 at Timberville; dairy judging, April 19 at Orange; land appreciation judging, April 19, place to be announced; livestock stock judging, April 26 at Verona; and tractor operation, May 8, at Culpeper.

Contests in all phases — dairy, livestock, poultry, land appreciation and tractor operation — for northeast district club members will be held May 10 in Richmond.

Southeast district 4-H'ers will compete in: land appreciation, April 26, place to be announced; livestock judging, May 7, Courtland; tractor operation, May 9, at Chesapeake; and dairy judging and egg grading and poultry judging, May 10, Richmond.

April 12 will be the big day for east central 4-H'ers at Farmville, where all contests will be held, with the exception of livestock judging, scheduled for April 26 at Verona.

West central club members will compete May 17, with dairy, livestock, and poultry judging contests at VPI, Blacksburg, and land appreciation and tractor operation contests in Roanoke.

Southwest Virginia 4-H'ers will compete in: livestock judging, April 2, Marion; egg grading, poultry judging and tractor operation, April 19, Abingdon; dairy judging, April 26, Abingdon, and land appreciation, May 24, Abingdon.

KNOW HOW TO USE FIRE EXTINGUISHER

One thing worse than having no fire extinguishers around farmstead buildings is to have them and not know how to use them, warns the Virginia Rural Safety Council.

The Council says that after a fire starts it may take too long to read the directions and become familiar with the use of the equipment. Everyone, including older children, should be taught how to use extinguishers. Everyone also should know what number to call to get a fire truck, and what to do until the fire department arrives. Be sure to give name and address and, if needed, understandable directions for reaching your place.

There are many types and makes of good extinguishers. Information about them is available from your local volunteer fire department.

U. S. WAS VE-FREE IN '57

The U. S. Department of Agriculture reports that not a single case of the swine disease, vesicular exanthema, has been found in this country for more than a year.

Less than six years ago, the disease was at epidemic proportions, with 42 states reporting infected swine herds.

Most of the credit for combatting the disease is attributed by federal officials to the outstanding cooperation of the states in passing garbage cooking laws. All states but one — Connecticut — have passed laws to prohibit the feeding of raw garbage to hogs.

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THE BIBLE SPEAKS

BY DR. KENNETH F. FOREMAN

Bible Material: Luke 4:14-21, II Corinthians 8:9-15; Galatians 6:1-5; Hebrews 4:14-16; 10:23-25; Matthew 25:31-46

Devotional Reading: II Corinthians 5:11-19

Chosen People

Lesson for February 2, 1958

MOST church members do not realize what a privilege it is to be one. The Bible passages for this week are extremely suggestive and will bear careful study. As usual, there is room here for comment only on two or three points brought out in one of the most striking sentences ever penned to the church.—To the church as well as about the church. For most of the New Testament books were written as letters to churches. As the reader thinks back over the words, he should keep in mind not "This means me," but "This means the church, in which I am privileged to be a member."

Dr. Foreman

A New Kind of People

Saint Peter, writing to people he had probably never seen, dares to say to them some very high things. He could say these things because, while he did not know them separately and personally, he knew the church and what God intended it to be. "You," he wrote, "are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation." A chosen race . . . The church, so far as it is a true church, is made up of persons whom God has chosen. He has chosen them not like separate little pearls: each in it, own right, but as the gathered pearls on a gleaming necklace. Peter uses the word "race" rather than organization or group or society. Race suggests blood brotherhood, it suggests a common ancestor, a common life. If each race of mankind has something special about it, so the Christians, as the "chosen race," have something special about them. A church which cannot be told apart from just any club, a church whose members are not appreciably different from people on the outside, is a church in name only. Christians as a family are a new kind of people. They have been born anew, they have a quality of life no other people have.

God's Personal Representative

Again Saint Peter says, You are "a royal priesthood." Remember these words were not addressed to any particular person or group in the church, they were written to the whole church. The church is itself a priesthood: this is what is meant by the expression "the priesthood of all believers." Now Saint Peter had been and still was very much a Jew. For him, priesthood had meant a great deal. The priest, in the centuries before Christ, had long been the accepted mediator between God and men. He represented men before God, he represented God in the presence of men. Now if the church, taken all together, is the priesthood of God, then it also is, or is expected to be, God's personal representative in this world.

Consider only one meaning of this. What convinces us that any person exists, and really is the kind of person he is said to be? Next to the person's coming to see us himself, the most convincing evidence that he is real, and no flying-saucer imp, is some friend or relative of his who can make all our doubts vanish by telling us what he knows. So the church, as a priesthood in this skeptical world, ought to be representing God in such a convincing way that people no longer doubt that He exists. One test of a true church, as of a true Christian, is: Does this church make it harder, or easier, to believe in God?

The International People

The church is also a "holy nation." It has not always been clearly understood what Saint Peter meant by this. Did he mean that Christians must withdraw from the world to a little holy island or ghetto of their own, there to "let the rest of the world go by?" Did he mean that Christians are a supernation, empowered to dictate to all other nations, owing allegiance to no flag but the Christian flag? Unless Peter was out of line with all the rest of the New Testament, he probably meant no such thing. He did mean at least this much: first that the Christian church lives by higher laws than the "kingdom of this world." The church is the nation where the Law of Love is the constitution. Second, since the binding force in this nation is not race or tradition or geography but holy love, it will not have any earthly boundary but will spread throughout the world. The church is the great and only completely international society.

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. Released by Community Press Service.)

CANCER CAMPAIGN

Mrs. Lawrence D. Ball, of Arlington and Robert Porterfield, of Abingdon have been named co-chairmen of the 1958 Crusade of the American Cancer Society's Virginia Division. The announcement was made this week by William R. Perkins, Jr., president Lynchburg, who said the Crusade will take place in April, the month recognized by Congress as Cancer Control Month.

STORAGE LIFE OF MILK MAY BE LENGTHENED

Ultra high-temperature, short-time pasteurization may greatly prolong the shelf-life of fluid milk.

Dairy marketing specialists at VPI say the possibility of this lengthened shelf-life is indicated by research conducted at Michigan State University. It was found that milk pasteurized by the higher temperature method can be expected to keep for at least 25 days at normal household refrigeration temperatures of 40°, in contrast to the 14 days possible with current pasteurization methods.

The new development uses temperatures ranging from 190 to 240° without holding the milk, while the regular high - temperature - short-time method holds the milk for 16 seconds at 161°. If continued tests reaffirm the original findings, another step will have been taken toward reducing the perishability of fluid milk and increasing its storage life, the specialists say.

PAMPLIN, RT. ONE

Miss Mildred Webber, of Pamplin spent the week-end of January 24-26 at Eagle Eyrie on a Sub-District Retreat.

VODKA SPENDING SOARS

Warsaw.- The Poles are spending more money on vodka than an any other single item in the household budget, according to official statistics published recently.

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